



AF/1744
B

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPELLANT'S BRIEF

Appellant: Lev Korenevsky
Application #: 10/037,548
Examiner: Shay L Balsis
Art Unit: 1744

REAL PARTY OF INTEREST

Lev Korenevsky

RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

N/A

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims rejected: 1-4 and 6-9
Claims withdrawn from consideration: 11-17
Claims cancelled: 5 and 10

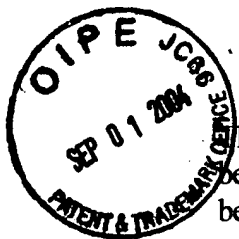
STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

The supplemental amendment to Claim 1 was entered after the final rejection for purposes of appeal.

SUMMARY OF INVENTION

The present invention features a paint roller frame that firmly retains a removable paint roller sleeve in the working position and does not let any paint to leak inside the sleeve core and the roller cage. This is achieved through several innovations. One of the most important features of the new design is a detachable outer portion of the roller cage assembly that combines the cylinder surface to support the outer end of the roller sleeve and the outer retaining face. This outer portion is attached to the bearing portion of the roller cage assembly via a mating connection imposing a desirable squeeze of the roller cage (Claim 1).

Two resilient washers adjacent to both inner and outer sleeve core edges are one more element that further improves the leak-proof characteristics of the roller cage assembly (Claim 2). They absorb the core end unevenness and help to impose a stable urge on the core.



The third key component of the invention is represented by an external washer for the bearing assembly which blocks another possible route of paint inside the sleeve core: in-between the bearing assembly and the shaft (Claim 3).

Usage of the removable outer portion creates preconditions for a design that allows the same roller frame be used with roller sleeves of at least two standard lengths and intermediate lengths (Claim 4).

The invention provides a paint roller frame design in which the roller cage is easily disassembled for maintenance and replacement of worn parts, assembled again, and mounted on the shaft with the help of conventional tools (Claim 6).

The cylinder surface of the outer annular face of the detachable outer portion provides preconditions for a new design of a clip-on end wig (Claim 7). When both walls of a corner are to be painted, the wig allows painting without complementing the paint roller frame with a brush.

A roller frame hook located on the shaft close to the roller cage allows keeping the roller frame with a conventional U-shaped shaft in the highest possible position above the paint surface when the roller frame is resting on a grid that is placed in a paint bucket (Claim 8). As a result, the painter can add more paint to the bucket (and less often!) without the paint roller sleeve soaking the paint.

A plastic sheathing for the portion of the U-shaped shaft adjoining the roller cage assembly eliminates creation of dark marks when this shaft portion occasionally touches the wall (Claim 9).

ISSUES

Whether Claims 1 – 4 and 6 – 9 are unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Thackara (USPN 2766473), Newman (USPN 3745624), and Dezen (USPN 4467509).

GROUPING OF CLAIMS

All the claims were rejected by the final rejection due to rejection of Claim 1. Claims 2 – 4, 6 and 7 are fundamentally based on the roller frame design that is introduced by Claim 1. Claims 8 and 9 represent enhancements that could be applied to any U-shaped shaft of a conventional roller frame. They originally were independent claims, but were amended by limitations that made them dependent on Claim 1 for the sake of clarity and to focus the application process on Claim 1.